

Amendment Dated December 20, 2004
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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 27, and ending at page 10, line 2, with the following paragraph:

In step 2, box 1002 in Fig. 2, the protocol converter 22 receives the message 101, then extracts and converts the OAM requests 100 embedded within the NMS protocol message 101 into a generic switch resource access format (e.g., Pock's Sid) and OAM operations 102. The possible OAM operations are Get, Get Next, Set, Create, Delete, and Transaction. In step 2a, box 1012 and 1013, the protocol unit resource broker 24 receives periodic CPU utilization information 106 broadcast from the available request units 10 via the distributed computing infrastructure 7 and event server 9 by way of a request object server message 104.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 8-10, with the following paragraph:

In step 12, box 1011 in Fig. 2, the NMS protocol agent 20 reformats the result for presentation using the user selected NMS protocol and returns the reformatted result 126 to the Network Management System 4.